

March 13, 2002

VETERANS' PROGRAM LETTER NO. **06-02**

MEMORANDUM FOR: ALL REGIONAL ADMINISTRATORS (RAVETs) AND
DIRECTORS FOR VETERANS'
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING (DRETs)
ALL STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES (SWA)
ALL STATE OFFICES OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ALL
ONE-STOP SYSTEM COORDINATORS
ALL REGIONAL ADMINISTRATORS, EMPLOYMENT AND
TRAINING ADMINISTRATION (INFO)

FROM: FREDERICO JUARBE JR. **[Signed]**
Assistant Secretary Veterans' Employment and Training

SUBJECT: New Law Expands Transition Assistance Program (TAP) Eligibility
Periods

I. Purpose: To provide information on broadened participation periods of attendance for separating and retiring service members.

II. References: H.R. 1291 / Public Law 107-103 Veterans Education and Benefits Expansion Act of 2001.

III. Background: On December, 27, 2001, the President signed The Veterans Education and Benefits Act of 2001. The law affects transition and outreach provisions for Title III (Section 302) and addresses the timing of preseparation counseling. Paragraph (3)(a) of P.L. 107-103 states that, "...preseparation counseling shall commence as soon as possible during the **24-month** period preceding the anticipated retirement date. In the case of a separation other than a retirement, preseparation counseling shall commence as soon as possible during the **12-month** period preceding the anticipated date...." As a result, VETS can now broaden the period of TAP workshop participation to fit into P.L. 107-103.

IV. Guidance: With the signing of P.L. 107-103, military retirees can now participate in TAP workshops during the 24 month period preceding their anticipated retirement. For those military personnel separating for reasons other than retirement, participation in TAP workshops may begin during the 12 month period preceding their anticipated date of separation. Unless the military member is being retired or separated for a disability, in order to participate in TAP, the member must have served at least 180 days of active duty.

This information should be distributed to the staff at all local State Workforce Agencies (SWA), Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) specialists and Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER) staff, and particularly to all VETS TAP facilitators. The information should also be provided to Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) partners.

V. Actions Required:

- RAVETs/DVETs will ensure the timely distribution of details concerning the extension of TAP workshop participation periods, especially to VETS TAP facilitators in cooperation with Department of Defense (DOD) personnel at TAP workshop sites.
- VETS field staff will ascertain staff familiarity with PL 107-103 and its impact on TAP workshop participation and should promote the information contained in this VPL when performing outreach and coordinating networking efforts.
- VETS staff will assist SWA's and One-Stop Coordinators in providing the information contained herein to all SWA staff.

VI. Inquiries: Any questions concerning this VPL should be directed to Hal Brown at (202) 693-4709.

VII. Expiration Date: When superseded

